

CHSP
HUNGARIAN STUDIES SERIES
NO. 4

EDITORS
Peter Pastor
Ivan Sanders

THE WAR CRIMES TRIAL OF HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER LÁSZLÓ BÁRDOSSY

Pál Pritz

Translated from the Hungarian
by *Thomas J. DeKornfeld* and
Helen D. Hiltabidle



Social Science Monographs, Boulder, Colorado
Center for Hungarian Studies and Publications, Inc.
Wayne, New Jersey

Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York

2004

EAST EUROPEAN MONOGRAPHS
NO. DCLI

Originally published as *A Bárdossy-per*

© 2001 by Pál Pritz

© 2001 by Kossuth Kiadó

© 2004 by Pál Pritz

© 2004 by the Center for Hungarian Studies and
Publications, Inc.

47 Cecilia Drive, Wayne, New Jersey 07470-4649

E-mail: pastorp@mail.montclair.edu

The printing of this book was made possible through a
grant from the Ministry of National Cultural Heritage,
National Cultural Fund of Hungary



The translation from the Hungarian original was supported
by a grant from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Library of Congress Control Number 2004112562

ISBN 0-88033-549-1

Printed in the United States of America

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LÁSZLÓ BÁRDOSSY

PROLOGUE	3
HIS CAREER	5
PÁL TELEKI AND LÁSZLÓ BÁRDOSSY	9
Hostile London	10
Challenge and Contradictions of Symbiosis with the Germans	12
The Belgrade Coup	14
An Evening Conversation with Károly Rassay	17
The Fateful Meeting of the Supreme Defense Council	18
Dramatic Cable from London	20
Pál Teleki's Tragedy	22
The First Days as Prime Minister	22
THE FATAL STEP OF ATTACKING THE SOVIET UNION	25
Henrik Werth's First Attack	25
Hitler's Diabolic Hungarian Policy	26
Bárdossy Takes Action against Werth	28
On the Eve of the Attack against the Soviet Union	30
Visits by the German Minister	31
Severing Diplomatic Relations with Moscow	32
The Bombing of Kassa and the Regent's Decision	35
László Bárdossy's Action and His Great Responsibility	37

IN THE MAELSTROM OF THE WORLD WAR	41
Further Fights with Werth and Victory over Werth	41
The State of War with Great Britain	45
Going to War with the United States of America	49
The Isolation of László Bárdossy	52
The Last Weeks in the Sándor Palace	56
THE FALL	59
Debate with Miklós Kállay	60
Fráter (Brother) György, Alias László Bárdossy	61
The Last Years	63
In the Great Hall of the Music Academy	64
In the Still of the Cell	67
Responsibility or Guilt	68
The Sentence	71
THE DOCUMENTS	
THE DOCUMENTS IN THE CASE	75
The History of Their Publication	75
The Indictment Submitted by the Budapest Public Prosecutor to the Budapest People's Court on October 15, 1945	77
Justification	81
THE SPEECH OF LÁSZLÓ BÁRDOSSY BEFORE THE PEOPLE'S COURT BY HIS RIGHT, AS DEFENDANT, TO THE LAST WORD	117
November 2, 1945	117
ENDNOTES	161
BIBLIOGRAPHY	205
MAP	213

INDEX	215
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	223
BOOKS PUBLISHED BY CHSP	224

**THE LIFE AND TIMES
OF LÁSZLÓ BÁRDOSSY**